

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 17-22 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 17-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Uehara (USPPA no. 2002/0056095), which is the same reason recited in rejecting the claims in the prior Office Action.

The Office Action further recites in reply to applicant's arguments presented in overcoming the rejection of the prior Office Action that "Uehara, however, discloses in Fig. 6A [shows] a two-dimensional classification and arrangement space in which the feature value 'genre' is set on one axis and the feature value 'program' is set on another axis. Applicant should duly note that the feature value 'genre' of Uehara corresponds to a number when a number is assigned to each character string representing a genre in program data, wherein the feature value 'program' correspond to each keyword character string number contained in a character string that represents a program title in the program data accompanying each video contents segment."

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his providing additional rationale for rejecting the claims in reply to applicant's arguments. However, applicant again respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims for the same reasons recited in applicant's response to the rejection of the claims in the prior Office Action, which are reasserted, as if in full, herein.

With regard to the Examiner's reply, applicant submits that Uehara fails to recite all the elements claimed. For example, Uehara discloses displaying icons associated with video segments in a classification and arrangement space (see Figures 6A-6C and paragraphs [0070]-[0077]). Uehara further discloses that "[a] user can play and appreciate a desired video contents segment by using the operation input device. The video contents segment is played ... when a displayed icon is clicked on ... It is also considered that the specified video contents segment and the video contents segment close to the specified video contents segment are simultaneously played. In this case, ...

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it is preferable that the video contents segment having a distance D from the specified video contents segment is played ... " (see paragraphs [0087]-[0088]).

The browsing operation disclosed by Uehara in Figure 8 and paragraphs [0092]-[0099], which is referred to in the instant Office Action, states "[a] user inputs an operation with respect to the contents of the classification and arrangement space display by using the operation input device and the classification and arrangement display part determines the contents of the operation (Operation 805)." (see paragraph [0094]).

Hence, Uehara teaches a system wherein video content segments are displayed in an arrangement space allowing the user to select one of the segments for play and the system plays the selected segment and those segments within a distance D of the selected segment.

However, this operation described fails to teach the elements of "identifying a second program record of the plurality of program records that qualifies as a nearest neighbor of the first program record using the feature value, the key fields of the plurality of program records and a distance measurement method and determining, based on the identified second program record, whether to recommend said first program," as is recited in the claims. Rather, the browsing operation described by Uehara is responsive to the user input for playing the contents segments and fails to teach providing any recommendation of the video segments to be played based on a distance measurement.

Uehara, however, does teach a recommendation step of which video segments to be presented to the user. Uehara discloses in paragraphs [0064]-[0065] that "[f]or example, in the case where the user profile information has the contents shown in Fig. 3, under the condition of a recording number '1', among the programs broadcast from 19:00 to 23:00 in a broadcasting station on channel '2', a program is selected in which a text character string of the program data represents a genre matches with the character string 'Sports' completely or partially and a text character string represents a program title or program contents matches with the character string 'Baseball' or 'Soccer' completely or partially. Next, reference numeral denotes a video contents storing part which stored video contents selected by the filtering part."

Uehara, accordingly, discloses a method of selecting a program for display to a user based on a user profile, but does not disclose that the program is selected based on "the

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feature values, the key fields of the plurality of program records, and a distance measurement method." Rather Uehara discloses a filtering operation where programs are selected based on whether the programs satisfy criteria defined in the user profile. For example, using the example described by Uehara in paragraph [0064], a football sporting event broadcast on channel 2, between times 19:00 and 23:00 would not be selected or recommended to the user as this telecast would fail to meet the criteria provided by the user. Uehara is silent with regard to making a distance determination between "football" and "baseball" or "soccer."

It is well recognized that to constitute a rejection pursuant to 35 USC §102, i.e., anticipation, all material elements recited in a claim must be found in one unit of prior art.

Uehara cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Uehara fails to disclose each and every element recited.

At least for this reason, applicant submits that the rejection of claim 1, for example, has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to the remaining independent claims, these claims recite subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and were rejected for the same reason used in rejecting claim 1. Thus, for the amendments made to these claims, which are similar to the amendments made with regard to claim 1 and for the remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1, which are also applicable in response to, and reasserted, as if in full, herein, applicant submits that the reason for rejecting these claims has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims ultimately depend from the independent claims, which have been shown to contain subject matter not disclosed by, and, hence, allowable over, the reference cited. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

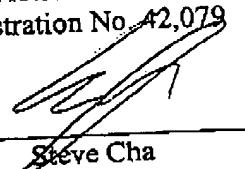
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For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski  
Registration No. 42,079

  
By: Steve Cha  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 44,069

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Mail all correspondence to:  
Dan Piotrowski, Registration No. 42,079  
US PHILIPS CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 3001  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001  
Phone: (914) 333-9624  
Fax: (914) 332-0615